

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Currently Amended) A filter assembly for a cigarette, comprising:

a cylindrical filter element, said filter element including

a filter material,

wrapping paper wound around the filter material, and

an adhesive region provided between the wrapping paper and the filter material and bonding the wrapping paper and the filter material to each other, the adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter material,

wherein the filter element is a plain filter element whose filter material is made of a fiber bundle only,

the filter assembly further comprises a cylindrical charcoal filter element arranged adjacent to the plain filter element,

the charcoal filter element including

a filter material made of a bundle of fibers,

particles of adsorbent distributed through the filter material,

wrapping paper wound around the filter material,

an inner adhesive region provided between the filter material and the wrapping paper and bonding the wrapping paper and the filter material to each other, the inner

adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter material,

forming paper wound around the plain and charcoal filter elements to connect the filter elements to each other, and

an outer adhesive region provided between the forming paper and the filter elements and bonding the forming paper to the filter elements, the outer adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter elements.

2. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive region has a plurality of adhesive-applied parts arranged at intervals in an axial direction of the filter element.

3. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 2, wherein the adhesive-applied parts constitute a continuous loop pattern having loops arranged in a longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper, as viewed in development of the wrapping paper.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 2, wherein the filter material comprises a bundle of fibers.

7. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 6, wherein the filter element further includes particles of adsorbent distributed through the filter material.

8. (Original) The filter assembly according to claim 7, wherein the adhesive-applied parts constitute a bar pattern having bars arranged at intervals in a longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper, as viewed in development of the wrapping paper, and one of the bars is located at one end of the filter material.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of producing filter assemblies for cigarettes, comprising the steps of:

supplying a rod-like filter member and a paper web to a wrapping section;

continuously wrapping the filter member in the paper web when the filter member and the paper web pass through the wrapping section, to form a filter rod; and

cutting the filter rod into filter plugs of predetermined length,

wherein the paper web supply step includes a process of forming an adhesive region for bonding the paper web and the filter member to each other, the process including

applying adhesive to a part of the paper web before the paper web reaches the wrapping section, the adhesive-applied part being continuous in a width direction of the paper web,

wherein the filter member comprises a rod member having plain and charcoal filter plugs alternately arranged in series and wrapped together in forming paper,

each of the plain filter plugs has a filter material and wrapping paper wound around the filter material, and

each of the charcoal filter plugs has a filter material, particles of activated charcoal distributed through the filter material and wrapping paper wound around the filter material.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the adhesive-applied part is formed at intervals in a longitudinal direction of the paper web.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the adhesive-applied part constitutes a continuous loop pattern having loops arranged in the longitudinal direction of the paper web.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the filter member comprises a bundle of fibers.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the filter member supply step further includes a process of distributing particles of adsorbent into the fiber bundle before the fiber bundle reaches the wrapping section.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the adhesive-applied part constitutes a bar pattern having bars arranged at intervals in the longitudinal direction of the paper web, and

one of the bars is located at one end of the filter member.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A filter assembly for a cigarette, comprising:

two cylindrical filter elements arranged in series, each of said filter elements including

a filter material,

wrapping paper wound around the filter material,

an adhesive region provided between the wrapping paper and the filter material and bonding the wrapping paper and the filter material to each other, the adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter material,

forming paper wound around the wrapping papers of the two filter elements to connect the two filter elements to each other, and

an outer adhesive region provided between the forming paper and the wrapping paper of the two filter elements and bonding the forming paper to the filter elements, the outer adhesive region having a part applied with adhesive and continuously extending in a circumferential direction of the filter elements.